



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**READING CULTURAL COUNCIL HOSTS GRANT INFORMATION SESSION
MAY 4 at READING SENIOR CENTER**

April 2015 -- The Reading Cultural Council (RCC) has awarded over \$5500 in program funding support to nine Reading organizations for arts and humanities programming in 2014 and 2015.

Individuals and organizations interested in seeking funding from the RCC for 2015-2016 are invited to attend an information session on May 4 at 7 pm at the Reading Senior Center. RCC members and past award recipients will share tips for the grant writing process. Please RSVP to readingculturalcouncil@gmail.com

The Reading Cultural Council

The Massachusetts state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to Local Cultural Councils, like the Reading Cultural Council, which make awards based on community needs, assessed and set by council members.

According to Reading Cultural Council chair Donna Schenkel, these grants support a variety of cultural, artistic and experiential projects and activities in Reading -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures. Programs are to be performed at an accessible Reading venue.

In 2014-2015, funding was provided to the following organizations:

- Alice M. Barrows Elementary School for a 5th grade field trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Creative Arts for Kids, Inc. for its 2014-2015 Theatre for Young Audiences Series
- The Reading Human Relations Advisory Committee for the January 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
- North Suburban Child and Family Resource Network for a June 2015 Children's Song and Singing Games Concert
- The Reading Art Association for the 2014 Fall Art Exhibit and Sale
- The Reading Community Singers for the 2014 Sing in the Holidays concerts
- The Reading Symphony Orchestra for the March 2015 Inaugural Concert introducing its new Director
- The Marble Collection, Inc. (TMC), Massachusetts High School Magazine of the Arts, to support after school writing mentoring workshops

- Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Ivy Chord Coffee House for its 2014-2015 concerts.

The Grant Application Process

Funds are awarded annually through an application process which can be competitive depending on the number of requests and the funds available. Typically, Reading's Cultural Council receives more applications than it can fully or even partially fund. Average grants tend to be modest and are reimbursement-based, meaning applicants expend their own money, and if approved for a grant, submit paperwork for reimbursement.

Application forms are available online at mass-culture.org/Reading or at Reading Town Hall. The next postmark deadline for applications is October 15, 2015.

About the Reading Cultural Council

The Reading Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. Members of the Reading Cultural Council are volunteers appointed by the Reading Board of Selectmen. Individuals interested in joining the Reading Cultural Council can visit the Reading Cultural Council page on the Town of Reading website (readingma.gov/cultural-council) or contact Donna Schenkel, chair [donnaschenkel@icloud.com] or the Reading Town Clerk.

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